

## 2020-2021 Waxahachie ISD Athletic Department COVID-19 Risk Mitigation Guidelines

TEA requires all school systems to develop a plan for mitigating COVID-19 spread in schools. UIL guidelines require schools to include UIL activities for the 2020-2021 school year as part of this plan and carefully plan for mitigating risk of spread as students and staff participate in these activities. These plans will be posted at [www.wisd.org](http://www.wisd.org) and [www.hachiesports.org](http://www.hachiesports.org)

The Waxahachie ISD Director of Athletics, Director of Sports Medicine and athletic training staff will be responsible for athletic mitigation and COVID-19 concerns.

In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:

1. At least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
2. The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
3. At least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such an individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to athletics until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.

If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to participate in athletics before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return to athletics based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) receive two separate confirmations at least 24 hours apart that they are free of COVID via acute infection tests at an approved COVID-19 testing location found at <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

If there is a confirmed COVID-19 case, the Athletic Department will notify the District Nursing Coordinator (Melissa Bousquet) to make contact with the local health department. The Athletic Department will continue with the procedures currently in place to make all necessary contacts after a COVID-19 case has been confirmed to the necessary people.

### STAFF AND ATHLETE COVID-19 SCREENING PROTOCOL

Coaches are required to complete the WISD screening tool on the WISD website daily.

A daily self-screening tool through the RankOne Public/Parent app will be used daily by athletes to help monitor student health and screen for COVID-19 symptoms. The app, **R1 Public**, will be required of all athletes prior to daily participation. It is a free application that requires each athlete to create a login and answer two questions about COVID-19 symptoms. This will be required before athletes can participate. These 2 questions are answered once a day and cannot be answered the night before unless it is after midnight.

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## R1 Public App Instructions

1. Download R1 Public App (Free App)
2. Create an account with an email address
3. Verify the account through your email account
4. Sign-In to the App
5. Click "Add Student" follow instructions
6. Click "Health" tab
7. Select "COVID-19 Screening Form"
8. Answer questions
9. Sign
10. Submit

Steps 4-10 are to be completed daily.

- If athletes are in school and start to feel symptoms, their teacher has been instructed to send them to the school nurse.
- Should an athlete start to feel symptoms during practice, coaches are to contact their Athletic Trainer, who will evaluate the athlete, isolate them from teammates, and contact parent/guardian for the athlete to be picked up.
- Coaches with symptoms will be removed from all athletes and follow district protocols and isolation
- Coaches and athletes who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be required to submit a letter of good health from a physician's office prior to returning to school.

## **FACE COVERING**

**Executive Order GA-29, regarding face coverings, applies to all UIL activities effective July 3, 2020. This includes the 2020-2021 school year. As the public health situation changes, and/or if subsequent Executive Orders are issued by Governor Greg Abbott, these guidelines may be further modified.**

- Face coverings are required upon entering any WISD Athletic Facility.
- Athletes are required to have a face covering during athletic competition. Mask can only be removed during exercise. Masks MUST be worn while on the sideline, courtside, etc., and social distancing must be maintained.
- Unless there is a documented medical condition that prohibits face covering, everyone is required to wear a face covering (7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>).

## **DISINFECTING AND CLEANING**

- WISD Custodial Services are trained to clean and disinfect athletic facilities daily using hospital grades disinfectant and paper towels to sanitize high touch and working surfaces and shared objects.

### Athletic Training Rooms

- There are two athletic training rooms that will be utilized for WISD athletics.
- In these facilities masks must be worn by staff and athletes at all times.
- There will be no more than 6 people allowed in the facility including staff members.
- Athletes are only allowed in the athletic training room for acute injury evaluation until further notice.

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- Gloves and masks MUST be worn by staff during injury evaluation.
- Preventative and/or recovery treatments will be limited to foam rollers, stretching on your own, and massage tools for a limited time period. These types of treatments will be done by the athlete in the IAC at the High School and in the weight room at Lumpkins Stadium.
- Foam rollers and massage tools MUST be checked out and returned after single use to be disinfected before another student is allowed to use them.
- NO WHIRLPOOLS will be used until further notice unless for Heat Related Emergencies.
- Students that need to see the team doctor will continue to see him. The athletic training room will be closed during this time to all other athletes.
- All tables and rehabilitation equipment will be disinfected after each use.

### Weight Rooms

- All plates, bars, dumbbells, and benches will be cleaned by players and coaches between each group
- Players will wear masks while they are spotting teammates that are lifting
- Players will be properly distanced in weight room when possible

### Games and Practices

- Players of all sports at Junior High and High School will be required to bring their own water bottles for games and practices. There will be stations at practice for necessary refills. Athletes will not be allowed to touch the stations. Refilling of the bottle must be done by a coach or student worker or athletic trainer.
- Bottles and small coolers will be filled by student aids, athletic trainers, and coaches at practices and games.
- Water bottles from the training room will be used during timeouts ONLY for high school football games. Bottles will be disinfected immediately after each use by student aids wearing masks and gloves
- Signage for hand-washing, personal hygiene will be posted in locker rooms, showers, restrooms and athletic training rooms.
- Disinfectant soap will be added to the showers as an additional protective layer for student athletes
- Coaches will be assigned to monitor locker rooms and showers. Teams will be broken into smaller groups for locker room use.
- Masks are required at all times
- Issued sports equipment will be properly disinfected daily.
- Screening for all game day workers, game officials, scores table workers, concession stand workers, security guards, sideline personnel and game administrators will be performed upon entering the facility.
- No spectators, or family members will be allowed on the field or court before or after games.

## **FACILITIES and CONTESTS**

Waxahachie ISD will allow spectators to attend games, contests, or events within a maximum 50% capacity limitation.

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Venue	50% Capacity
Coleman JH (JW Williams Gym)	450
Finley JH	300
Howard JH	370
Mike Turner Gym (WHS)	1,086
Green Gym (WHS)	120
Gray Gym (WHS)	120
Lumpkins Stadium	4,700
Richards Park	420
WHS Baseball	120
WHS Softball	230
WHS Soccer/Football/Track	610
Wilemon Field	820

### **SPECTATORS, AUDIENCES, FANS and MEDIA**

- Spectators, audiences, fans and media are required to wear face coverings as described in Executive Order GA-29.
- Everyone will be verbally screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to entering the facility
- Groups should maintain at least six feet of distance from other groups at all times, including the process of admission and seating. A group is defined as no more than 10 people including the members of the household and those persons who traveled together to the facility.
- On-line ticketing will be utilized for most events.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- Each bus will be equipped with a crate of sanitizing wipes, gloves, and masks
- Each bus has been equipped with a hand sanitizer station
- Players will be required to travel on the same bus to and from games
- When a bus is returned, it will be sanitized with an electrostatic sprayer before it is used again
- Suburbans will have sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer available.
- Face coverings must be worn on busses.
- Students are allowed to ride home with their parents or guardian after out of town games. This will require WISD documentation before the student can travel home after the game with the parent or guardian.

### **VISITNG TEAMS and PARTICIPANTS**

- Sports and contest officials will be provided an area to enter and exit separate from fans. Officials will be provided a dressing and meeting area that has been cleaned and disinfected prior to their arrival.
- Visiting teams will be provided a cleaned and disinfected area for teams to unload and load buses separate from fans, spectators, and other individuals not essential to the team or group.
- Visiting teams will be provided a group locker rooms that has been cleaned and sanitized before the team arrives. The visiting team is responsible for cleaning and disinfecting equipment once it is

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unloaded. Access to these facilities is only available to students and staff essential for the game, contest, or event.

- The visiting team coaches will be provided a pressbox room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor that has been cleaned and disinfected.

Please direct questions or concerns to EJ Hairston or Greg Reed by calling 972-923-4606 or email [greed@wisd.org](mailto:greed@wisd.org), [ehairston@wisd.org](mailto:ehairston@wisd.org)

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